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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14, 15, 17, 23, 41 and 42 have been cancelled, while claims 24, 36 and 43-53 (previously numbered 25-35) have been amended. In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully believed that all the claims remaining in the application, i.e., claims 24, 36-40 and 43-53 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 52 and 53 have been allowed. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Accordingly, it should be noted that claims 52 and 53 have been rewritten in independent form. Next, claims 24 and 43-51 have been amended so as to now depend from claim 52. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24 and 43-53 should be allowable.

Meanwhile, claim 36 has been amended to include subject matter consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 52-53 and, therefore, should also be allowable. And finally, claims 37-40 remain dependent from claim 36, and thus should also be allowable.

In view of the claim cancellations and amendments, all rejections based on the cited references should be moot.

Applicants respectfully believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is requested.

If any fees, including extension of time fees, are due as a result of this response,

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please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0456. This authorization is intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

For: Furukawa, et al.

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